

North Carolina
National Register Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 9, 2012

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on February 9, 2012, in the conference room on the third floor of the Archives and History/State Library Building, 109 East Jones Street, in downtown Raleigh. Committee members in attendance were: Mr. B. Perry Morrison Jr., chairman, Mrs. Millie Barbee, Mr. David R. Black, Dr. Jerry C. Cashion, Ms. Wendy Grady, Mr. John Larson, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Dr. Linda F. Stine, and Mrs. Barbara B. Snowden. Committee members who were absent were Dr. Edmond A. Boudreaux and Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Jeffrey J. Crow, state historic preservation officer; Ramona Bartos, deputy state historic preservation officer; Claudia Brown, Survey and National Register Branch supervisor; Ann Swallow, National Register coordinator; Jessica Dockery, National Register and survey specialist; Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, National Register assistant; Chandrea Burch, file and photography clerk; Anna Grantham, assistant file and photography clerk; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; John Wood, restoration/preservation specialist, Eastern Office; Elizabeth King, preservation specialist, Eastern Office; Paul Fomberg, senior restoration specialist; and David Christenbury, preservation architect.

Visitors in attendance included Dr. David Brook, director of the Division of Historical Resources; Office of State Archaeology staff Dolores Hall, deputy state archaeologist, and Lawrence Abbott, National Register coordinator; Andrew LaRowe, Guilford County Schools; Yvonne Hart, Andrea Buzzini, and Mandy Edwards representing the Mooresville Mill Village Historic District; Pat Brower, Allen Jay School Alumni Association; Michelle Gillespie; and consultants Heather Wagner, Cynthia de Miranda, and Ruth Little.

Mr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. After welcoming the committee, staff, and guests, he asked Dr. Crow for his report.

Dr. Crow began by commenting on the state budget for the Department of Cultural Resources, noting that thus far there had not been any rescissions. He added that any reductions in the department's budget for 2012-2013 would result in staff cuts. Regarding federal funding, Dr. Crow announced that the HPO appeared to be secure through September as the federal allocation for 2011-2012 was slightly more than expected. He also said that he could not predict the 2012-2013 federal budget in light of the coming elections. Dr. Crow concluded by announcing that he and Ramona Bartos would be attending the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers in Washington, DC, which begins on March 7 with a day of lobbying the state's congressional delegation. He said that the participation on "lobby day" of several of Jo Leimenstoll's students as well as a businessman who utilizes the rehabilitation tax credits provides important first-hand perspectives on the economic importance of historic preservation. Dr. Crow then recognized Ms. Bartos.

Ms. Bartos began her report by commenting that her familiarity with North Carolina is increasing due to her travels across the state for site visits and meetings, including the annual meeting of the

Historic Wilmington Foundation where she delivered the keynote address. She reported that while in Wilmington, she also visited the *USS North Carolina* and the Underwater Archaeology Unit. She added that she would be making several visits in the western part of the state in April. She also reported that she had several conversations with members of the Wood family about placing conservation easements on Hayes Plantation in Edenton.

Ms. Bartos handed out a sheet (attached) highlighting recent tax credit projects, including the \$90 million rehabilitation of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Factory 91 in Winston-Salem, where she planned to attend the grand opening celebration on February 21; the anticipated rehabilitation of associated surrounding buildings would represent an additional \$300 million in private investment activity. She commented on the critical importance of the rehabilitation tax credits to historic preservation and noted that all state tax credits are scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2014. She said that she is looking into having a study done on the economic benefit of the historic preservation tax incentives that could be used in lobbying to re-authorization of the credits. Ms. Bartos concluded her report by announcing that the HPO once again has a full complement with the arrival on February 1 of Annie McDonald, preservation specialist in the Western Office.

Claudia Brown then introduced Ms. McDonald, who moved to Asheville from Leesburg, Virginia, where she was the town's preservation planner for six years and earlier served as the Southeast Tennessee Development District's federal program liaison to the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office and earlier as an architectural historian with a Washington, DC, consulting firm. She added that Ms. McDonald holds degrees from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Youngstown State University and has a wide range of experience that includes preparation of National Register nominations, Section 106 review, and coordination of workshops and statewide conferences.

Dr. Crow announced that, in consultation with Dr. Cashion, he appointed Dr. Valerie Johnson, a member of the North Carolina Historical Commission, to replace Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, who resigned from the NRAC due to other commitments on her time. He said that Dr. Johnson could not be present today due to a long-standing conflict, but she will finish Dr. Bryan's term, which ends on June 30, 2012, and that he plans to appoint her to a full term beginning in July.

At 10:20 a.m., Mr. Morrison called for a recess for a committee training session conducted by Ann Swallow. When the committee reconvened at 11:03 a.m., Mr. Morrison reviewed the policy regarding conflict of interest. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2011, meeting. Dr. Cashion moved for approval, Mrs. Barbee seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Mr. Morrison asked Ann Swallow to begin the presentation of National Register nominations. Ms. Brown interjected that the Study List application for Mauney Library in Kings Mountain was removed from the agenda at the request of the applicant.

Ms. Swallow then announced that Guilford County Schools requested that presentation of the National Register nomination for the Allen Jay School Rock Gymnasium in High Point be postponed. She explained that the nomination was prepared by an alumni group interested in preserving the gymnasium, that the group had notified Guilford County Schools in 2011 by the group of their intention to prepare the nomination, and that in January the HPO had given the

school system official notice of the NRAC meeting. She said that Andrew LaRowe, operations officer for the school district, notified her the previous week that he had not yet brought the nomination to the attention of the school board and asked that the nomination be removed from the agenda. Ms. Swallow said that she explained that Mr. LaRowe would have to make his request directly to the committee and that she notified the applicant, Pat Brower, of the situation. Ms. Swallow emphasized that all regulatory and CLG review requirements for the nomination have been met and that staff advised that the committee proceed with the review.

Mr. Morrison recognized Mr. LaRowe, who began by explaining that he had not had time to share the nomination with the school board and that he has put it on the board's February 26 agenda. He acknowledged that other Guilford County schools are listed in the National Register and that he is committed to making no alterations to the gymnasium before June 14, 2012. He explained that renovation of Allen Jay Middle School as a magnet school is a new bond project; there are no plans to demolish the gymnasium, although it may be part of the renovation project. He emphasize that Guilford County Schools is not at odds with the alumni association and that the delay in review of the nomination by the NRAC is requested simply to allow time to educate the school board about the National Register program and to assure the board that National Register listing would not halt renovation of the school.

Mr. Morrison noted that the NRAC merely advises the Keeper of the National Register and that if the NRAC were to approve the nomination, the property owner has the option to appeal to the Keeper. He said that he did not understand Mr. LaRowe's concern. Mr. LaRowe replied that the school administration does not want the NRAC to act before the school board fully understands the program and the process. He added that he was not aware of any board member having an objection to the nomination.

Mr. Morrison then recognized Pat Brower, a member of the Allen Jay School Alumni Association, which is the applicant. She explained that the alumni association loves the gymnasium, in part because of the circumstances of its construction. She said that when the community was unable to build the gymnasium with donated materials during the Great Depression, they appealed to one of the state's U. S. senators. The senator referred them to President Roosevelt, who instructed local officials to make the project a priority and sent WPA workers to build it. Ms. Brower said that the association has been striving to have the nomination prepared for nine years. She said that in 2010 they sent a registered letter about their desire to nominate the building to the board of education but did not receive a response; after so much time, she did not want to tell the association that there is a delay, for which she sees no reason.

Mr. Larson asked if the gymnasium is endangered. Ms. Brower replied that the building is being maintained, although the roof needs work. Mr. Larson observed that a good working relationship with the school board is essential if the alumni association wants the building to be repaired. He said that he is concerned about collateral damage to the relationship between the school board and the alumni group if the NRAC acts contrary to the school system's wishes. Ms. Brower replied that the alumni association does not have an adversarial relationship with the school system and would like to continue to work with the board.

Ms. Swallow offered a compromise: She reminded the committee that their review and recommendation to Dr. Crow regarding the nomination is the first of three formal steps in having

the property listed and that the second step is Dr. Crow's review and decision about signing and forwarding the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register. Ms. Swallow suggested that the NRAC could review the nomination today and if it finds that it is complete and correct and meets the Criteria for Evaluation, could make a recommendation that Dr. Crow delay his review until after the school board has been briefed on the National Register program. She reminded the committee that public property owners do not have the right to object to the listing of a property and that the applicant, who has worked on the nomination for a long time, has a strong interest in seeing it moved forward today rather than wait four months until the next NRAC meeting. Mr. LaRowe replied that the school superintendent had considered holding an emergency meeting of the school board to discuss the nomination but decided that it would be counter-productive. He said that he considers a delay of the NRAC's review of the nomination the best outcome.

Mr. Black made a motion to delay review of the nomination for the Allen Jay School Rock Gymnasium to the NRAC's June 2012 meeting and Mr. Larson seconded the motion. Mr. Larson said that the delay would be done under the assumption that the nomination would come to the NRAC at the June meeting. Ms. Grady suggested that Mr. LaRowe would have more information to present to the school board if the NRAC were to review the nomination today, resulting in a positive outcome for both groups. Dr. Crow asked if N.C.G.S. 121-12(a) would come into play, requiring the HPO, as staff for the North Carolina Historical Commission, to review any construction plans that would affect the gymnasium, as the property is owned by the county but the schools are operated by the state. Ms. Swallow replied that the statute applies only to properties that are listed in the National Register; thus, if work were planned after the gymnasium is listed, the school system would be required to submit the plans to the HPO for review, but the HPO's comments would not be binding.

Mr. Morrison asked for further comments before reiterating the motion to move the nomination for the gymnasium to the June agenda. There were no further comments. All voted to approve the motion except for Ms. Grady and the motion carried.

Mr. Morrison recognized Secretary Carlisle, who had recently entered the conference room. Secretary Carlisle said that she was pleased with what she heard because she likes the opportunity for more dialogue. She also emphasized that she did not want to see anything happen that is detrimental to the building. Before leaving the meeting, she expressed her appreciation for the NRAC's thoughtful deliberation and the passion and dedication of the HPO staff and the community volunteers in Guilford County.

Ms. Swallow and Jessica Dockery proceeded with the presentation of eleven nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). As Ms. Swallow concluded her presentation, she introduced Mandy Edwards, a planner with the Town of Mooresville, and Yvonne Hart, a Mooresville resident. Ms. Edwards reported that the Mooresville Town Board is in support of the nomination for the Mooresville Mill Village Historic District and has established a conservation overlay district for the village.

Mr. Morrison asked if there were any questions about the nominations for central and southeastern properties. Regarding the Lee and Helen George House, Mr. Black said that the nomination describes the crab orchard stone used for the exterior veneer as rare but it actually is the most common stone on the East Coast. Ms. Swallow said that she would correct the

nomination. Dr. Cashion said that he would confer with Ms. Swallow regarding several minor historical corrections that he noted. Upon a motion made by Ms. Leimenstoll and seconded by Mrs. Barbee, all voted to approve the eleven nominations.

Mr. Power presented three nominations for properties in the eastern region (see attached agenda). Mr. Perkins moved for approval of the nominations and Mrs. Snowden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Dockery presented a nomination for the Penland Post Office and General Store in Mitchell County. A motion by Mrs. Barbee for approval, seconded by Dr. Stine, passed unanimously.

The committee began a lunch recess at 12:55 p.m. When they reconvened at 1:30 p.m., Mr. Larson was not in attendance.

Consideration of Study List applications began with a presentation by Lea Abbott, National Register coordinator for the Office of State Archaeology, of an application for Judaculla Rock in Jackson County. Dr. Cashion moved for placement of the property on the Study List, Mr. Black seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

John Wood introduced Elizabeth King, preservation specialist in the Eastern Office who was hired to complete the comprehensive architectural survey of Beaufort County. Ms. King proceeded to present her survey Study List of thirty-six properties (see attached agenda). After Ms. King concluded her presentation, Dr. Stine mentioned that there is growing interest in the archaeology of migrant labor camps and that archaeology should be considered if a nomination for the camp near Chocowinity that Ms. King presented is prepared. Ms. Swallow added that additional research might reveal that the farms presented by Ms. King as potentially eligible for listing in the Register under Criterion C for their architecture also are potentially eligible agricultural significance under Criterion A. Upon a motion by Ms. Grady, seconded by Ms. Leimenstoll, the committee unanimously approved placement of all of the Beaufort County properties presented by Ms. King on the Study List.

Mr. Morrison called for a five-minute break. When the committee reconvened, a quorum remained although Mrs. Barbee and Mr. Black were no longer in attendance.

Mr. Wood introduced Ruth Little, the consultant who conducted the comprehensive architectural survey of Carteret County. Dr. Little presented twenty-seven properties for the Study List (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Morrison asked for a motion to approve the Carteret County properties presented by Dr. Little. Dr. Cashion so moved and Mrs. Snowden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Consideration of Study List applications submitted by the public began with Ms. Brown's presentation of the Lowe House in Avery County. Ms. Leimenstoll made a motion to place the Lowe House on the Study List and Ms. Grady seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Swallow presented two Study List applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). She noted that staff recommended that the Old Campground Cemetery in Cabarrus County not be placed on the Study List due to loss of integrity

and that the Wingate Historic District be approved with the caution that close consultation with HPO staff on the rehabilitation of the three buildings is necessary to ensure compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and the likelihood of approval of a nomination for the district. In response to a question by Mr. Perkins, Ms. Swallow said that it is possible that the Old Campground Cemetery could be re-assessed if more of the undergrowth were cleared and that this opinion would be expressed in the notification letter to the property owner. Ms. Dockery presented the final two applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda), noting that staff recommended approval of both and that Firleigh appeared to be potentially eligible for listing only under Criterion B. Mr. Perkins made a motion to approve staff recommendations regarding the four central and southeastern Study List applications, Ms. Leimenstoll seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Mr. Morrison thanked the committee and staff for their patience and endurance and noted that the next NRAC meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2012. There being no further business, Mr. Morrison adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Crow
State Historic Preservation Officer

JJC/cp
Attachments